

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1004

ANSWERED ON:05.03.2008

ATTACKS ON INDIAN SECURITY PERSONNEL IN AFGHANISTAN

Pandey Dr. Laxminarayan; Rao Shri Kavuru Samba Siva; Rijju Shri Kiren; Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao; Singh Kunwar Rewati Raman; Tripathi Shri Chandramani

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some Indian Security personnel were killed and some others were seriously injured in a suicide attack on the convoy of Border Roads Organisation in Afghanistan in January this year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of Indian workers and security personnel working on different relief and reconstruction projects in Afghanistan;
- (d) the details of Indian workers and security men killed by local anti-government forces in Afghanistan each year during the last three years; and
- (e) steps taken to ensure safety of security personnel and workers abroad?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

- (a)&(b) Yes. On January 3, 2008, a BRO convoy was attacked by militants resulting in the death of two ITBP personnel and injuries to 5 others. Nineteen Afghan civil security personnel and civilians were also killed and more than 15 injured in the attack.
- (c) There are about 4000 Indian workers and security personnel working on different relief and reconstruction projects in Afghanistan.
- (d) In November 2005, Shri Maniyappan Raman Kutty, an official of the Border Roads Organization (BRO), was abducted and killed by Taliban militants. In February 2006, Shri K. Bharath Kumar, working for US-based company, M/s. Louis Berger Group Inc. was killed in a land mine blast. Shri K. Suryanarayana, working for Bahrain-based Al-Moyaed Company was taken hostage and killed in April 2006 by suspected Taliban militants in Ghazni province of Afghanistan. In a terrorist attack on BRO's Project Zaranj personnel on 3 January 2008, 2 Indian security personnel, Shri Manoj Kumar Singh and Shri Desha Singh, were killed.
- (e) The Government of Afghanistan have provided local security for our major projects. For Zaranj-Delaram road project, being executed in security-sensitive Nimroz/ Helmand province by Border Roads Organization, the Government of India have also deployed ITBP security personnel to supplement local Afghan security provided by the Afghan Government. Indian nationals in Afghanistan are being regularly advised about the prevailing security scenario in the country through security advisories issued by the Embassy of India, Kabul.